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SLAVS THREATEN TO RESUME WAR AGAINST HUN RULERS

RUSSIANS BREAK NEGOTIATIONS WITH GERMANIC POWERS WHEN SHOW THEY INTEND TO ANNEX TERRITORY

KAISER AND CHARLES THROW OFF MASKS, AND REFUSE TO GIVE POLAND, LITHUANIA, LIVONIA, COURLAND AND ESTHONIA THE PRIVILEGE OF SELF-DEFINITION—BREAK MAY UNITE RUSSIAN ELEMENTS AND A NEW ARMY BE MOBILIZED.

(By the Associated Press.)

Petrograd, Jan. 3.—The bolshevik foreign minister, Leon Trotsky, declared today that the government of the Russian workers would not consent to the German peace proposals.

M. Trotsky's declaration was made before the central committee of the council of soldiers' and workmen's delegates, during an address in which he denounced in scathing terms "Germany's hypocritical peace proposal."

Asserting that the government workers would not consent to such conditions, M. Trotsky said that if the Germanic powers did not agree to free disposal of the destiny of the Polish and Lithuanian nations it would be necessary to defend the Russian revolution. He said the needs at the front would be satisfied, whatever efforts might be necessary.

Representatives from all the fronts who attended the meeting declared the troops would defend the revolution, but said bread and boots were necessary.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Jan. 2.—The Russian peace delegation officially has suggested to the Germanic powers that the meeting place of the delegates be transferred to neutral soil and has protested against certain articles in the Austro-German terms already submitted.

The halt in the Russo-German negotiations and indications of a German refusal to remove the conference to Stockholm, Sweden, have revived universal discussion in Petrograd of a resumption of fighting with a greatly reduced army, probably three million men.

Even the most radical bolsheviks and the most ardent peace advocates have been aroused by the German position. They declare that a resumption of hostilities is imminent, and express belief that it is possible to organize and make effective a small army.

Indications are that the German attitude is harmonizing democratic differences and is convincing Russians that they must fight to save their revolutionary principles.

Chairman Joffe of the Russian peace delegation today sent an official telegram to the chairmen of the German, Austrian, Belgian and Turkish delegations, saying the Russian republic deems it necessary to conduct further peace negotiations on neutral soil, and suggesting a transfer of the conference to Stockholm. The telegram declares that replies to the message are expected by Russia in Petrograd.

Articles 1 and 2 of the Austro-German terms submitted December 12 (December 25 new style), the message says, are in direct conflict with the principles of self-definition of nations insisted upon by the Russian peace delegation and supported by the Russian republic and the central executive committee of soldiers' and workmen's delegates.

Articles 1 and 2 of the Austro-German terms as cabled under a Brest Litovsk date by way of Berlin last Sunday covered the ending of a state of war and evacuation of occupied territory. In article 2, however, it was declared that the people of Poland, Lithuania, Courland and portions of Esthonia and Livonia demand independence and separation from Russia, and that the German occupation of Russian territory did not apply to districts which include most of the Russian territory captured by the Germans.

BOLSHEVIKI TELL GERMAN SOLDIERS THAT THEIR MASTERS ARE COMMON LIARS

Petrograd, Wednesday, Jan. 2.—The Izvestia today gives excerpts from a pamphlet which the bolsheviks are circulating in the German lines, in which it is declared that the peace conditions submitted by the central powers show the Austro-German promises of a democratic peace to be "unconscionable lies."

After describing the actions of the Germans in Poland and Lithuania in recruiting forced labor and shooting hunger strikers, the pamphlet continues:

"The German government only found support in Courland from the hated slave owners, the German barons who have their prototypes in the Polish land owners."

The document declares Germany desires to see the peoples on Russia's western frontier unprotected from the scope of the Russian revolution in order to subjugate them with German capital, impose an Austrian monarchy on Poland and make Lithuania and Courland German duchies. It concludes:

"On such a basis, the Russian workmen's government can never enter negotiations."

WILSON'S RAILROAD MESSAGE TOMORROW

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Wilson today finished the address he will deliver to congress tomorrow on the railroad situation. It is understood to be about one thousand words long.

The president will make specific recommendations for legislation to carry out government operation of railroads.

Congress, reconvening at noon today, after its holiday vacation, postponed adjournment until tomorrow out of respect for Senator Newlands and Representative Bathrick, who died during the recess. The big war legislative program will begin tomorrow.

Bills embodying the president's ideas on railroad legislation already have been drafted.

IT IS ALL EXPENSE.

Washington, Jan. 3.—"Dining" out of town buyers is a proper business expense for commercial houses and may be deducted legitimately from earnings in figuring incomes and excess profits taxes, Internal Revenue Commissioner Roper ruled today.

BERLIN EXCITED AS RESULT OF RUSSIAN BREAK

AT CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF ALL PARTIES, THE DISRUPTION IS WARM SUBJECT.

JUNKERS DENOUNCED

Prominent Socialists Declare That German Intentions to Annex All Russian Territory Conquered Is Giving Entire "New War Will."

(By the Associated Press.)

Petrograd, Wednesday, January 2.—

Petrograd newspapers are unanimous in declaring that the German and Austrian have, after one week, thrown off the mask and made it clear that the Germanic powers do not want a real democratic peace. The Pravda says:

"German imperialism is again beginning to show its claws."

Germany's apparent unwillingness to give Poland, Lithuania, Livonia, Courland, and Esthonia the privilege of free self-definition is the rock upon which the negotiations have split. Other peace conditions are ignored by the bolshevik leaders, who say that Germany opposes the most vital principle underlying the Russian revolution.

Russian Units Denounce Germany.

On Tuesday evening at a joint meeting of the central executive committee of the congress of soldiers' and workmen's delegates, representatives of the peasants' deputies, the Petrograd workers' and soldiers' council, and representatives of the general congress for the demobilization of the army, a resolution was adopted unanimously declaring that the German peace terms were unjust. It denounced Germany's attitude toward the Baltic provinces as tyrannical, and authorized the government to take steps to transfer future negotiations to a neutral country.

Russians generally favor Stockholm, Sweden, as the place for the peace conference, but it is said the Germans are not willing to go to Sweden.

GERMANIC RULERS EXCITED.

Conference of Military and Naval Chiefs Is Called.

London, Jan. 3.—The situation created by the halt in the Brest Litovsk peace negotiations has aroused the activities of the rulers and politicians of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Emperor William yesterday received in joint audience Chancellor Von Hertling, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, General Von Ludendorff, Finance Minister Von Bredow and Foreign Secretary Von Kuehlmann.

The foreign affairs committee of the German bundestag, under the presidency of Count Von Dandl, discussed the Russian situation at the chancellor's palace. Chancellor Von Hertling had a long conversation with Admiral Von Tirpitz, the former minister of marine, and Emperor Charles of Austria received in audience Prof. Wm. Kuehlmann, the Polish premier.

Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann's return to Brest Litovsk after a hurried visit to Berlin is said to have created surprise, as did his conference with reichstag leaders, who were summoned suddenly.

Leaders of all parties were present at the conference, according to information in Amsterdam, and they informed Dr. von Kuehlmann that they adhered strongly to the demand that the reichstag be summoned as speedily as possible. It is expected that the demand will be discussed at Thursday's session of the reichstag main committee, which Chancellor Von Hertling will attend.

Socialists Denounce Junkers.

The feature of the conference is said to have been the outspoken speeches of Philipp Scheidemann and Friedrich Ebert for the regular socialists, and Hugo Haase for the Independent socialists. They are credited with having told Von Kuehlmann that his attitude in the Russian negotiations was prejudicial to peace. They told him that to say one day that Germany wanted no Russian territory, and say the next day that it wanted virtually all territory occupied by German troops justified extreme statesmen in declining to place confidence in the word of German leaders.

The foreign secretary is said, however, to have made complete explanations. It is reported that both Von Kuehlmann and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign secretary, renewed instructions.

Returned to Brest Litovsk, where they were expected to arrive yesterday with The Leipzig Volks Zeitung, the leading independent socialist newspaper, commenting on the Brest Litovsk situation.

(Continued on page 5).

WEATHER FORECAST.

For Ardmore and vicinity: Tonight fair, warmer; Friday partly cloudy. Oklahoma: Tonight fair, warmer; Friday partly cloudy, warmer in east portion, colder in extreme northwest portion. East Texas: Tonight and Friday fair and warmer. West Texas: Tonight fair; Friday fair; colder in the Panhandle.

Local Temperature.

Maximum temperature yesterday 57 degrees; minimum this morning 21 degrees.

WAR SUMMARY.

A crisis is nearing in the Russo-German peace negotiations and indications are that a definite break is not far off. The Russian government has demanded that the conference, which was to have reconvened Jan. 4, be transferred to Stockholm, Sweden, and has protested against the German attitude regarding occupied territory. A resumption of hostilities is not improbable, should the Germans decline to meet the Russian demands.

Emperor William and the rulers of Germany apparently are aroused over the sudden change in the situation, and the German and Austrian foreign secretaries are reported hurrying back to Brest Litovsk with new instructions. German military and political leaders conferred yesterday with the emperor, and there is a widespread demand throughout Germany that the reichstag be convened immediately.

Reichstag leaders at a conference with Foreign Secretary Von Kuehlmann discussed the situation and the leaders of the regular and independent socialists are reported to have expressed dissatisfaction with the German attitude concerning occupied territory.

A breaking off of peace negotiations probably will upset all German plans to press a formidable attack on the western front. Confidence is expressed in Petrograd that the Russian government might put an army of three million men in the field, and the bolshevik Red Guard, made up of armed Russian workmen, already has started toward the fighting front. A complete break undoubtedly will compel the Germans to return to the eastern front the troops they have taken away within the past six weeks, and would make it impossible for the Germans to renew trade relations with Russia in order to obtain much needed foodstuffs.

Stow and incident whether are held in check any large scale operations on the western and Italian fronts. The British and Italians continue to repulse enemy raids at various points, while the German artillery bombardment in the Ypres and Verdun sectors still is very strong.

Increased loss of merchantmen is shown in the current British and French reports. Through mines and submarines, the British lost 21 vessels, including 18 of more than 1,000 tons, or nine more than the previous week, when 12, including 11 of the larger tonnage, were sunk. French losses were 10 steamers of more than 1,000 tons, as compared with 12 in the previous week. Italy lost one.

December shipping losses were but slightly higher than those of November, which established a low record. Destruction by the allies of submarines also is said to have been more common in December than in any previous month, being greater than the number the Germans probably were able to build.

TULSA PREACHER IS IN TROUBLE

Tulsa, Okla., Jan. 3.—The Rev. J. E. Floyd, pastor of the First Christian church here, was called on the carpet by the Tulsa county council of defense Wednesday, to answer charges of unpatriotic utterances in the pulpit. Specifically, he was accused of expressing sympathy with "those brave German soldiers." Last Sunday, during the course of his sermon, it is alleged he said his "heart went out to them."

Another cause of complaint was the minister's alleged statement regarding "the lax methods of the Red Cross."

Floyd ran high at the hearing, and the council was unable to offer satisfactory explanations for the utterances. A committee from the council will investigate the charges, and if they are substantiated, Floyd will be requested to resign his pastorate and leave the city, members of the council said.

ON HUNT FOR THAT RUSS CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Petrograd, Jan. 2 (Wednesday).—A small party of delegates from the Ukraine, elected to the constituent assembly, arrived in Petrograd today and demanded an answer from the council of people's commissars as to when the constituent assembly would open.

A conference of all parties except the bolsheviks, from which the members of the left of the social revolutionists withdrew, decided that the constituent assembly should be opened upon the arrival in Petrograd of one-third of the membership.

AMERICAN RED CROSS AIDS ITALIAN VICTIMS OF HUN

Rome, Wednesday, Jan. 2.—The American Red Cross mission to Italy today appropriated fifty thousand lire for the benefit of the victims and families of victims of enemy air raids on Padua and other cities in northern Italy, which have suffered recently from such raids.

GERMAN WAR PRISONERS IN RUSSIA WANT TO REMAIN IN LAND OF SLAV

HAVE LIVED FREE AMONG THE PEOPLE AND NO PRISONS OR STOCKADES HAVE BEEN THEIR LOT—KAISER IS WILLING THEY REMAIN IN ORDER TO AID FUTURE COMMERCIAL CONQUEST HE IS PLANNING.

London, Jan. 3.—Petrograd dispatches indicated that differences developed at the first meeting there of the Russian and German commissioners for the discussion of economic relations.

The Germans desired to reach an understanding with the Russians regarding regulation of railroad transit between the two countries. The Russian delegates strongly emphasized their unwillingness to go beyond the lines indicated in the armistice, and refused to fix regulations without precise definition as to what classes of persons and goods the railroads were to carry.

The bolshevik foreign minister, Leon Trotsky, is quoted in an interview as having said that the commission which is discussing prisoners has taken up only the question of civilian and invalid war prisoners. He said the exchange of able-bodied war prisoners could be undertaken only after the signing of peace.

A Petrograd dispatch to the Post says a very large proportion of the German war prisoners, and still larger proportion of the Austrians, will return to their fighting fronts only under compulsion. They have not been confined in prison camps, but have lived among the people and everywhere have proved their worth in agricultural, industrial, commercial and even artistic pursuits. Many of them are getting on better than they did at home, and are more than contented to remain in Russia.

Furthermore, it is improbable, the delegates said, that Germany desires the return from Russia of a majority of her war prisoners. She will get back the officers and non-commissioned officers in any case, and many of them already have returned. But for both Austria and Germany, the dispatch continues, it is a sounder policy to regard the rank and file of these men as the advance guard of commercial conquest.

Warning Is Sounded.

The correspondent adds: "Allied diplomacy is credited with having conceded to Russia the right to make a separate peace, but with endeavoring to save its face by raising the question of the return of German prisoners which, says diplomacy, will be regarded as an act hostile to the allies."

The correspondent contends that diplomacy would be better employed in obtaining a strategic position in the commercial and industrial future of Russia. He is convinced the country will fall into the hands of enterprising and industrious Germans, not by force of arms, but by skillful peaceful penetration, and he asks:

"What will be the strength of that combination of races when the manpower of 150,000,000 Russians, added to their inexhaustible agricultural wealth and vast mineral stores, come under the organizing hands of the German? Germany stands to gain an undue proportion of the fruits of victory."

Countess Paulin, former secretary of state for public instruction, who was arrested by the bolsheviks owing to her refusal to turn over to them the funds of her department, has been released under bail of 25,000 rubles. This is the amount of money which she declined to hand over to the bolshevik commissions.

British and French Quit.

The Petrograd correspondent of The Times says a deep impression has been made in Petrograd by the withdrawal of French and British ships from Archangel and the breaking up of important French and British detachments there. Many Russians regard this move as premature, because the present state of affairs cannot last.

The military commissioner of posts and telegraphs on the northern front has sent a notice to the telephone and telegraph stations that severe punishment will be inflicted on any person who transmits appeals to French or American socialists, who are characterized as "those imperialist hirelings."

The Petrograd Den publishes a description of a visit to the German lines on the Russian western front, where, it says, bright trading is going on among the fraternizing soldiers, to the accompaniment of ceaseless noise. The trading is done by cash and barter. The Germans sell goods at suspiciously low prices. They refuse notes issued by the revolutionary, accepting only money issued under the former imperial regime. The daily turnover amounts to hundreds of thousands of rubles.

FEWER PASSENGER TRAINS IN STATE

OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO FORM GROUP FOR CURTAILMENT.

Dallas, Texas, Jan. 3.—Railroad executives of lines in Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, meeting here yesterday, decided to abolish all upturn passenger and freight offices, eliminate a committee of five, headed by W. B. Scott, president of the Sunset Lines, which will revise schedules so as to do away with unnecessary passenger trains and substitute therefore needed freight trains.

These steps were taken to aid Director General McAdoo in cutting down executive expense and conserving supplies. In a resolution, the delegates pledged their absolute support to Mr. McAdoo, especially in the matter of preventing freight congestion.

The Texas Railroad commission attended the meeting. It pledged its cooperation with the railroads.

More Trains to Be Annulled.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Fifty per cent of passenger trains operating north, west, northwest and southwest will be eliminated if tentative plans made by railroad committees yesterday are put into effect. It was announced today. Definite announcement as to what course the railroads will take will be made known in a few days.

AMERICAN BANK IN MOSCOW SEIZED

Petrograd, Jan. 2 (Wednesday).—The Moscow branch of the National City bank (New York), which for several days escaped the general order for the confiscation of all banks, was seized by the bolsheviks Saturday night. H. J. Dreher, the manager, was not arrested.

The Petrograd branch of the National City bank, which was seized by the bolsheviks a week ago, expects to arrange to take care of the financial needs of American residents in a few days.

REMARKABLE INCIDENT COMES WHEN FRENCH IN ITALY CAPTURE HUNS.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 2.—The French in their recent successful operation on Monte Tomba captured more prisoners than they had men engaged according to a veteran officer who witnessed the fight. From the top of a nearby hill, he saw the French attack, and afterwards saw the prisoners, guns and booty brought in.

In addition to the 1,400 prisoners, we counted 500 dead on the ground and no one knows how many more were in the caverns and underbrush," he declared. The perfect military system enabled the French to accomplish this with insignificant loss—less than 50 men.

"The Fifth Austrian division, which was the one attacked, is considered a good fighting organization. But the Austrians were accustomed to fighting Russians and Rumanians, and this was the first time they had met the highly trained French troops."

"When the prisoners were brought in I never saw a more miserable, pitiable, starved lot of soldiers. They looked like the riffraff from the slums of some big city. Even the officers appeared underfed and underclothed, and I saw only one with a whole pair of trousers."

"When the officers were lined up, there were forty-six Austrians and two Germans. The Austrians were told they would receive the usual treatment given officers and gentlemen, but the two Germans were told plainly that they would receive the same treatment given French officers in Germany. The group of Austrian officers was impressed greatly by this, and openly expressed their hatred of the Germans. A little later we heard the Austrian soldiers cheering, and it turned out they were cheering their French captors."

MARQUIS OF CREWE GIVES HOME TO GOVERNMENT

London, Jan. 3.—The Marquis of Crewe, former lord president of the council, The Daily Express says, has loaned his London home, Crewe House, in Curzon street to the government as the official headquarters of Viscount Northcliffe and the British mission to the United States, thus becoming a great Anglo-American exchange.

HOOVER AND REED CLASH AT LAST

PEPPERY RETORTS ARE MADE BY BOTH WHEN SENATOR TRIES TO TRIP DICTATOR.

WHEAT PRICES ALSO

Missouri Statesman Accuses Food Administrator of Attempting to Fix Wheat Prices—Hoover Tells Reed, Finally, He Does Not Know It All.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Food Administrator Hoover and Senator Reed had their long expected clash in public today at the hearing before the senate committee investigating the sugar and coal shortages. Reed, one of Hoover's avowed critics, questioned the food administrator sharply, and Hoover replied with equal spirit. The verbal duel ranged from sugar to wheat.

Senator Reed charged Mr. Hoover with "usurpation of authority" in handling the wheat situation, "that would be a crime in normal times." Hoover warmly denied it and said the situation had been handled with the approval of President Wilson.

"Of course," Reed replied, "the president's coat tail is long, his shoulders broad and his position unquestioned, but I am questioning you on the method you employed in fixing wheat prices."

Reed began his questioning on wheat trying to bring out a question affecting sugar. Hoover said the food administration had asked grain dealers not to pay more for wheat than the price fixed by congress. Reed tried to bring out that the price question was so put up to the dealers as to really make the transaction price-fixing, but Hoover maintained he only attempted to stabilize prices and denied that the food administration had done anything not authorized in the food law.

Says People Want Results.

"I take it, with the country at war, the people want results," said Hoover. "It is not fair to go into such conditions unless all phases are discussed, and that would take a week. One thing is certain, the farmers now are getting more for their wheat, and flour is selling for less."

Hoover would not acquiesce in Reed's statement that some force was necessary to get and maintain so-called voluntary agreements on sugar prices. He said the food administration depended largely on the patriotism of refiners, but that "some authority was needed."

Senator Reed tried to develop that the food administration last fall arranged it so that beet sugar selling at \$7.25 a hundred pounds would not come east of the Alleghenies when sugar was selling for a higher price and that it was done for the benefit of the eastern cane refiners.

Beet Sugar Needed in West.

Hoover replied that eastern refiners had paid a price for Cuban raws that would preclude selling at \$7.25, but even with that situation taken into consideration the beet sugar was badly needed in the west and middle west, and it was impossible to ship large quantities east because of the car shortage. He considered it a dangerous move to disrupt the sugar industry more than necessary to get the best price available for the consumer and as equal distribution as railroad facilities would allow.

After he had been questioned minutely on details, Hoover remarked: "I don't think you comprehend the whole situation, senator."

REPORT ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS DELAYED

A meeting of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce was held last night at which it was expected to have a full report of the work of the committees engaged in the membership drive last week. As two of the committees have not yet made their returns, the total could not be ascertained, but it was stated that the showing is very satisfactory. There will be a special committee, or a new committee, appointed to go over all the ground in the several districts, as it is desired to have every man in business in the city represented in the Chamber of Commerce. The number taking memberships is large, but it is believed by the members of the board that many of those who have subscribed should increase their subscriptions. It is deemed necessary to raise the full amount of money required to carry out the plans outlined.

The employment of a young woman as an assistant in the office of the secretary was authorized by the directors. At first she will be principally employed in gathering information for the rebuilding of the rating bureau.

No action was taken on the refinery proposition, as this is in the hands of the Industrial Corporation.

A resolution was adopted endorsing the company manufacturing the Brooks gas heaters, a home product. This company finds its business increasing so rapidly that it has become necessary to have more capital with which to prepare for the filling of orders in sight.

NORWEGIAN VESSEL GOES DOWN

London, Jan. 3.—The Norwegian foreign office reports that the Norwegian steamer Vigrid (1,817 tons gross) has been torpedoed and sunk. Five men were killed.